

## ABSTRACT

A component mounting apparatus including an exchangeable suction nozzle is easily supplied with another suction nozzle to replace the former suction nozzle. A plurality of mounting modules 12 having respective identical constructions are arranged adjacent to each other such that the mounting modules are oriented in a same direction, so that the mounting modules 12 constitute a mounting-apparatus line. When the mounting-apparatus line is reset, a mounting head 40 is used to exchange automatically suction nozzles 158 between a nozzle stocker 330 and a nozzle carrier plate 400, so that a current arrangement of suction nozzles on the nozzle stocker 330 is changed to a new arrangement of suction nozzles for the next component mounting operation. The nozzle carrier plate 400 can hold a plurality of sorts of suction nozzles 158 that are needed for the next component mounting operation but are not held by the mounting modules 12. A wiring-board conveying device 34 is used to convey sequentially the nozzle carrier plate 400 to each of the mounting modules 12 and, in a state in which the nozzle carrier plate 400 is positioned and held, one or more unnecessary suction nozzles 158 are returned to the nozzle carrier plate 400 and one or more suction nozzles 158 needed for the next mounting operation are held by one or more vacant nozzle holders.